

program, which they can make access to several millions of dollars that are available under the fund. But I also agree with what Senator Lamb has just said. You have a number of private folks out there on the farms, ranches, who have private tanks that are going to pay in, and I think it's unfair. And I'm still trying to find out whether this fund would be available. If I'm paying in as a tank owner on a farm and I have...I discover a leak, am I available to have access to the fund as well as the marketers do. And that I haven't found out yet, and I'm going to try and find that out before the debate finishes here this morning. But I think Senator Beutler's amendment is reasonable. I understand the marketers have no problem with that, or may not have a problem with it. So I'm going to support it, but I also support Senator Lamb's amendment as well.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Morrissey, did you wish to discuss this amendment?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I support the concept of Senator Beutler's amendment, if he would yield. Senator Beutler, where did we come up with the second 10 percent figure? Is that...I mean explain it again one more time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. It's 5 percent until 1998, and then 10 percent thereafter; 1998 is the year in which some additional federal requirements are to be made upon the marketeers, and so they suggested that that would be the time...an appropriate time to increase the fee. Five percent, until then, basically, is just a rough estimate of what inflation would be, so that as a minimum their share...they continue to pay their likely share of the fund. I mean I'm assuming that the cost of settlement will go up roughly with the rate of inflation, and that, therefore, their portion of the fund, just to keep them paying the same portion, should go up. The 10 percent is somewhat arbitrary in the sense that it's a figure that's picked, which I assume will be beyond the rate of inflation, so that slowly their share of the fund will increase. It could be more, could be less. But I think it should be above the rate of inflation in order to create the pressure.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you. I guess I don't know if there is any better way to calculate what that should be, so I guess we could always change it down the line, should we see something